



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

New Honors to Old Weeds.

BY EDW. L. GREENE.

The modern history of Californian botany was taken up by men who had never seen the field of their researches, and who had no conception of the number of foreign plants that had become naturalized in this part from Europe a hundred years ago. Many of these had not made their appearance in New England, and were unfamiliar to New England botanists. Several such plants, well-known to botanists in general for several centuries, obtained new names at the hands of writers of the East, as if they had been quite new to science. Dr. Britton, in the last issue of this journal, has been able to identify as old, one of my own supposed new plants; and I may here be allowed to indicate that botanists of note have added to synonymy in this manner, before me. Asa Gray, in his day, gave new names to not less than five extremely common and familiar weeds of the Old World, the specimens of which had come to him from this unsuspected habitat of California.

When, nearly twenty years ago, the present writer sent him *Convolvulus arvensis* from California, his letter in answer shows that he had considered this to be an exclusively Californian species, the *C. Californicus*, of Choisy; and when, a few weeks later, the real *C. Californicus* was transmitted, he named this *C. Soldanella*, an Old World species. But errors of this kind, of which he and other so-called "authorities" on West American botany have made scores and hundreds, do not come directly under my heading, being errors that did not go into print. The Old World *Convolvulus* to which Dr. Gray gave a new name, as a new species, and in the wrong genus at that, is a grain field weed, as common in California as in Europe—*C. pentapetaloides*, Linn., which he named *Breweria minima* (Proc. Am. Acad. xvii. 228). This error he some years afterward discovered and corrected. But there is one seeming more inexcusable which has not yet been corrected, though it was detected by me while Dr. Gray was still living; for I was loath to call his attention to a mistake, the discovery of which by another would naturally be somewhat humiliating. I refer to a new name that he gave to a plant of such ancient and

world-wide repute as Pennyroyal, the *Mentha Pulegium* of Linnæus. In this error Dr. Kellogg, it must be admitted, led the way; for when the plant appeared to him he named it as a new *Hedeoma*, *H. purpurea* (Proc. Calif. Acad. v. 52). In working up the Labiatae for the State Survey volumes, after having examined this plant minutely, Dr. Gray simply transferred it to the Californian genus *Micromeria*, where, as he remarks, it is "anomalous;" and so it stands to-day in the Synoptical Flora, as *Micromeria purpurea*, Gray. It is abundant not only on that island in the San Joaquin River, whence Dr. Kellogg and Dr. Gray had it, but also in several parts of Middle California rather remote from that station; and not more than one species of mint, *M. piperita*, has been more familiarly known in all countries during many centuries.

A dozen years ago I found by the wayside, in Berkeley, a Cichoriacea new to me, and of which no account was given in the State Survey volumes, or in any other American book; but, suspecting it of alien derivation, I soon found it to be *Crepis virens*, Linn., one of the most cosmopolitan members of its genus. But Dr. Gray twice mistook this plant for a new species, assigning it two new names, one in each of two distinct genera. It is his *Malacothrix crepoides* (Pac. R. Rep. xii. 49), and *Crepis Cooperi* (Proc. Am. Acad. ix. 214); and it was a friendly fortune which permitted him to make this correction of a humiliating two-fold error with his own pen. Even *Malva parviflora* was by this author new-named *M. obtusa* when first it went to him from California.

I am said to have given the new name *Paronychia pusilla* to an obscure weed of Southern Europe, of which the real name is *Herniaria cinerea*. It is the only instance in which I have honored an old weed with a new name; and as I have worked upon the Californian flora now nearly as many years as Asa Gray did, my record in this respect seems not likely to prove worse than his, to say the least.

Botanical Notes.

A Biological Survey of Indiana.—At the last meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science, at Terre Haute, a Biological Survey